

REP. BECERRA VOTES AGAINST WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, voted against H.R. 4899, the 2010 Supplemental Appropriations Act as amended by the Senate.

After the vote, Rep. Becerra released the following statement:

"As a candidate and once he was elected, President Barack Obama made very clear to us all that he believed that America's fight for security and freedom resided in Afghanistan—not in Iraq. I agreed with him then, and I agree with him now. We do have a reason to fight those who would steal our freedom and endanger our security.

That fight must be focused and it must be clear. Our men and women in uniform who lay their lives on the line deserve no less.

So, when our government poses before the people a vote to fund our military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq through an emergency spending bill which relies on borrowed money, I must ask myself several questions. If this is the right fight, the fight we must have, then is it not worth paying for it? Must we borrow from our children to cover the cost of this war?

Why is funding for this war classified as an "emergency" when this war is anything but an "emerging" conflict? It is the longest war in American history. It is a known and expected expenditure within our federal budget.

It is time for all of us—our country's leaders and the American people—to understand and bear the full cost of this war. Unless we ask all Americans to shoulder some of the burden, how can we ask our soldiers to sacrifice it all?

I commend the President for being clear in his decision and the mission to prosecute the war in Afghanistan. But this war, which has run longer than the Revolutionary War, longer than the Civil War, longer than the World Wars or Vietnam, is not a candidate for “emergency” deficit spending. □ If Afghanistan is worth fighting for, it must be worth paying for. For this simple reason, I am compelled to vote against H.R. 4899, the 2010 Supplemental Appropriations Act as amended by the Senate."